in Australian and New Zeleand nursery offerings.

The greatest activity in hibiscus hybridization in both Hawaii and India was during the period 1900-1914. However, in recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in all parts of the world where ornamental hibiscus can be grown, particularly in Hawaii, Florida and in California - where the writer and Joe Staniford have been traveling a lonely path, with all breeding work being done under greenhouse conditions. But Hawaii has made the greatest contribution by far in the evolution of modern hibiscus hybrids. In addition to exotic size and coloring, they have given their hybrids longer bloom-life, heavier petal substance and more attractive foliage with the early use of their native species.

Thus the difficulty in answering your questions becomes obvious: having the "blood" of several known and perhaps some unknown species, the ornamental hibiscus we now call H. roas-sinensis is a highly polymorphic group composed of complex hybrids and their derivatives. Therefore, when they are crossed one with another it is virtually impossible to know in advance just what form, color or other morphological feature will appear in the progeny.

For emphasis, let us speculate on the genetic history of those fine hybrids you received from Hawaii not long ago. Going back forty or fifty generations we would undoubtedly find that the first cultivated hibiscus ancestor to arrive in Hawaii was from India or China, perhaps via Fiji. This was already a hybrid form, perhaps with H. liliflorus from the South Indian Ocean area as one parent and the other a single, quite possibly one of the several forms of single red which will seed. Then, we can assume that this was eventually crossed with the Hawaiian white and Hawaiian reds in subsequent generations, and backcrossed to other forms of H. rosa-sinensis, both single and double. Through selection, size and color were

(Cont'd on page 30)

BY-LAWS CHANGED

There were two portions of the by-laws of the American Hibiscus Society changed at the recent annual membership meeting in Ft. Lauderdale.

The first was in regards to the chapter dues and the necessary application forms to transfer from membership-at-large to a chapter membership.

The second major change was in regard to members eligible for election to offices of the AHS. Now past presidents of the AHS are not eligible for election to the offices of president or vice president. This change does not effect chapter presidents.

Copies of the new by-laws are available from all chapter presidents and other officers of the AHS. If a member would like to receive a copy of his own he may do so by writing to the executive secretary and asking for a copy.

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HIBISCUSERS

Hibiscus are our favorite flowers
Each bloom has a different hue -
They take us to the tropics
With an appeal that's always new.

We are reminded of our friends
Who like these lovely flowers
Have left ror some distant island
To spend their eternal hours.

Our memories are enriched
By the joys shared from year to year;
May we continue to grow hibiscus
And value our friends who are here...

- Josephine Tipton